

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3683

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, US, RO
SUBJECT: ARMITAGE-GLIGA CALL

REF: BUCHAREST 3645

1. ALTHOUGH BULK OF PARTY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS STEFAN ANDREI'S MAY 18 MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE WAS DEVOTED TO OTHER TOPICS (SEPTTEL), ANDREI DID MAKE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AT VARIOUS POINTS; MOST OF THEM RELEVANT TO EARLIER GLIGA-ARMITAGE TALK (REFTEL) ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. HE NOTED THAT CEAUSESCU HAD BEEN INFORMED OF ARMITAGE VISIT AND SAW IN IT A GOOD SIGN OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. ANDREI UNDERLINED ROMANIAN DESIRE TO FIND WAYS TO SOLVE ANY EXISTING PROBLEMS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION. HE ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON WELL-ESTABLISHED US-ROMANIAN PRACTICE OF DISCUSSING QUESTIONS FRANKLY AND SAID SPECIFICALLY IT IS GOOD TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS "FROM TIME TO TIME" AND TO SEE WHAT ARE THE COMMON POINTS OF VIEW AND ALSO WHERE THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES.

3. ARMITAGE LATER NOTED THE CONSENSUS THE PRESIDENT HAS
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BEEN BUILDING IN THE US BASED ON A STRONG EMPHASIS ON ARMS CONTROL AND ON THE RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO FOREIGN POLICY, WITH THE CONSEQUENCE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL SPEAK OUT WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ARMITAGE MENTIONED OUR EARLIER IMPRESSION THAT ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ACTING WITH FLEXIBILITY AND RESTRAINT IN ITS TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO

VOICED CRITICAL VIEWS, AND THAT IT WAS ON THE BASIS OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED OUR CONCERNS PRIVATELY IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS WITH COULD AFFECT THOSE RELATIONS.

4. THE ONLY SPECIFIC HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM ON WHICH ANDREI TOUCHED WAS THAT OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. RECALLING THAT HE HAD SPENT SO MUCH OF HIS VISIT TO THE US LAST YEAR TALKING ABOUT THE MATTER THAT HE COULD WRITE HIS DOCTOR'S THESIS ON IT, HE SAID HE FELT THINGS WERE BEING HANDLED SATISFACTORILY. (ARMITAGE AND AMBASSADOR AOODED BUT SAID IT COULD GO STILL BETTER.)

5. NEAR THE END OF THE CONVERSATION ANDREI CAME BACK TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS/HUMANITARIAN QUESTION BY SAYING "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY WORRIES ABOUT OUR RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE DOES NOT EXIST A SOCIETY WHICH DOES NOT HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DISSATISFIED AND COMMUNISM WHENEVER IT IS ACHIEVED WILL BE NO DIFFERENT. THE ROMANIAN PREFERENCE IS TO APPROACH THESE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, WHICH ARE MOST APT TO BE FOUND AMONG CULTURAL/ARTISTIC FIGURES (THOUGH HARDLY NUMEROUS EVEN THERE HE CLAIMED) THROUGH DIALOG AND DISCUSSION, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE WHEN A PARTY SECRETARY HAD TALKED TO ONE OF THE DISSIDENTS. THIS IS THE SAME APPROACH WHICH IS TO BE APPLIED IN THE FUTURE IN THE BELIEF THAT PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ROMANIA DOES NOT LIVE IN A VACUUM AND THEREFORE
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AN ANTI-SOVIET NOVEL IS NOT GOING TO GET OFFICIAL BLESSING. AT THE SAME TIME HE COMPLAINED THAT WESTERN PUBLISHERS ALL TOO OFTEN PUT OUR ONLY ANTI-REGIME WORKS.

6. IN PASSING, ANDREI MENTIONED THE STANDING INVITATION HE HAS FROM THE GOVERNING PARTY OF MEXICO, HIS INTEREST IN STOPPING IN WASHINGTON ENROUTE PERHAPS SOMETIME IN THE FALL AND HIS HOPE TO MAKE UP FOR HAVING MISSED DR. BRZEZINSKI IN NEW YORK LAST SUMMER BY SEEING HIM ON SUCH A STOP.

7. COMMENT: EVEN ALLOWING FOR GLIGA'S HAVING FILLED ANDREI IN ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH ARMITAGE, ANDREI WAS AT CONSIDERABLE PAINS NOT ONLY TO AVOID GOING INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN ANY DETAIL BUT ALSO TO CONVEY A DESIRE TO ALLAY US CONCERNS. TO QUOTE AN OLE ROMANIAN SAYING "VOM VEDEA" - IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

BARNES

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